

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 302706

LIMDIS USUN FOR AMBASSADOR DALE ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 9380 ACTION SECSTATE 24 NOV 76

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 9380

LIMDIS

IO FOR ASST. SEC. LEWIS, TOUSSAINT AND PALMER; PASS LABOR
FOR SEC. USURY, SEGALL AND HOROWITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO, PLAB
SUBJ: NUCLEAR THREAT BY G-77 SPOKESMAN AT ILO GOVERNING
BODY SESSION

REF: GENEVA 9317

1. SUMMARY: TEXT OF REMARKS IN PARA 2 BELOW BY AMBASSADOR
DE ALWIS OF SRI LANKA (REPORTED PARA 3 REFTTEL) WAS TAKEN
FROM UNOFFICIAL TEXT TRANSCRIBED FROM TAPE BY ILO SECRET-
ARIAT; ONLY REDUNDANT PHRASES HAVE BEEN DELETED. TEXT IS
NOT AVAILABLE TO ILO MEMBERS AND WAS SHOWN TO US IN CON-
FIDENCE. IF USED OUTSIDE US GOVERNMENT IT SHOULD BE
DESCRIBED AS STENOGRAPHIC RECORD TAKEN BY MEMBER OF
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USDEL. DE ALWIS, WHO SAID HE WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF

SRI LANKA AND THE GROUP OF 77 HARANGUED THE GB FOR 35 MINUTES. HIS MAJOR POINTS WERE (1) THAT THE WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE AND THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER WERE "CLOSELY ENMESHED AND THAT THE TWO MUST BE IMPLEMENTED SIMULTANEOUSLY AND CONCURRENTLY;" (2) THAT THE WEC MUST BE TRANSLATED INTO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR THE FEBRUARY/MARCH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND (3) THAT THE G-77 REPRESENTATIVES IN GENEVA WILL HELP THE SECRETARIAT IN ORDERING PRIORITIES OF THESE PROPOSALS. SEE PARAS 3 AND 4 BELOW FOR MISSION COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

2. TEXT OF AMB. DE ALWIS' STATEMENT:

BEGIN TEXT

MR. CHAIRMAN,

WE OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE COME TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE TO NEGOTIATE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN CONFRONTATION, BUT WE HAVE A NEW FOUND STRENGTH. I SAY THIS BECAUSE-- AND I WANT TO REMIND MY COLLEAGUES--DESPITE ALL THE EFFORTS TO STOP ALL THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, LARGE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE ALSO HAVING THE CAPACITY TO HAVE ACCESS AND TO PRODUCE THESE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. FURTHERMORE, THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TODAY HAVE THE NATURAL RESOURCES, AS HAS BEEN AMPLY DEMONSTRATED BY OPEC, WHICH CAN BRING TOTAL ECONOMIC DISASTER TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

END TEXT.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE REPORTED THE INCREASING EFFORTS OF THE G-77 TO MAKE ITS PRESENCE FELT IN ILO SINCE THE MAY SESSION OF THE ILO, PARTICULARLY AT THE WEC AND THE MARITIME CONFERENCE. IF WE AND THE IMEC GROUP PERMIT THE G-77 CHALLENGE TO GO UNANSWERED WE CAN EXPECT THEIR DEMANDS TO BECOME MORE STRIDENT AND THE INFLUENCE OF THE IMED GROUP IN ILO TO BE WEAKENED. WE DO NOT TAKE DE ALWIS' NUCLEAR THREAT SERIOUSLY, BUT IT IS CLEARLY A GAFFE, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND A VIOLATION OF DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL AND OF COMMON SENSE. HOWEVER, NO MEMBER OF G-77--EVEN THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT MEMBER--ATTEMPTED TO MODIFY OR DENY DE ALWIS' THREAT. SINCE OUR BASIC RESPONSE TO THE G-77 IN ILO HAS BEEN AND SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE AN ATTEMPT TO ISOLATE THE LUNATIC FRINGE LEADERSHIP (CUBA, ALGERIA, MEXICO AND SRI LANKA) FROM THE MODERATES, WE SEE ADVANTAGE IN ROASTING DE ALWIS FOR HIS GAFFE. WE DO NOT SEEK HIS

RECALL BUT SHOULD THAT HAPPEN IT MIGHT STRENGTHEN THE
HAND OF THE MODERATE MEMBERS AND HAVE A SOBERING IN-
FLUENCE ON THE G-77.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, THE
DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO (A) ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE GOVERN-
MENT OF SRI LANKA INSTRUCTED DE ALWIS TO MAKE THE STATEMENT
IN PARA 2 ABOVE AND (B) ASK THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WHETHER IT ENDORSES THE DE ALWIS STATEMENT. WE ASSUME
THAT WE MAY CONTINUE TO MAKE APPROPRIATE LOW KEY REFERENCE
TO DE ALWIS' STATEMENT IN ILO CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS
WITH MEMBERS OF THE G-77.CATTO.
UNQUOTE KISSINGER.

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